



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

April 6, 2018

The Honorable Blanca Rubio
Chair, Assembly Human Services Committee
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **AB 2083** (Cooley) – as Amended March 19, 2018 – **SUPPORT**

Dear Chairwoman Rubio:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 2083 which would expand the availability of coordinated, trauma-informed services for foster youth who have experienced severe trauma.

The Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) effort requires counties to reduce the use of congregate care and to bring the services needed by foster youth and their families to home-based settings. San Bernardino County continues to work diligently to implement the CCR and has seen some success in diverting youth from group home care and keeping them with families. But for some of our foster youth, we continue to face challenges in meeting their very intensive needs. These youth often have co-occurring and complex needs that cross multiple systems, including mental health, substance abuse, education, and developmental disabilities. Due to the lack of a comprehensive state and local level strategy for coordinating services and funding, these youth experience delays in accessing appropriate care, sometimes moving between multiple foster homes and facilities.

AB 2083 seeks to develop a coordinated, timely, and trauma-informed system-of-care approach for foster children and youth who have experienced severe trauma, implement related Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) on the county level, and establish a joint interagency resolution team on the state level to assist counties in serving those children and youth. In San Bernardino County, families involved with Children and Family Services (CFS) would benefit from enhanced collaborative efforts with partner agencies to improve access to their important services.

San Bernardino County, in collaboration with some of its partner agencies, initiated an MOU that defined the roles within a joint management structure and established a forum for identifying and resolving barriers to achieving the Core Practice Model mandates. This collaboration has had a number of notable successes including:

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- Streamlining mental health services for children entering the child welfare system,
- Resolving issues related to information releases and consents,
- Establishing data sharing and reporting processes,
- Initiating an interagency/intercounty engagement in the AB 1299 Presumptive Transfer implementation process, and
- Coordinating efforts to train congregate care providers for Medi-Cal Certification and Accreditation.

AB 2083 would take steps at the local, state and practitioner level to improve and coordinate services to the most highly traumatized youth in care.

For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 2083 and respectfully requests an "Aye" vote. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Lovingood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being more prominent than the last name "Lovingood".

Robert A. Lovingood
First District Supervisor
Chairman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

c: The Honorable Ken Cooley
Members and Consultants, Assembly Human Services Committee
San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation